



Media release

For immediate release: Feb. 25, 2014

Covering Cabarrus – Feb. 25-March 3, 2014

Preview of information that impacts residents in the Cabarrus region

Announcements

Cabarrus earns GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that Cabarrus County has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards for its budget. [Learn More](#)

Cabarrus County EMS worker recognitions

Photos available upon request

Annually, Cabarrus County EMS recognizes top performing full- and part-time staff through a system of peer nomination and leadership team approval. The Star of Life Award is presented to a part-time team member who demonstrates great commitment to the service in the areas of system involvement, work hours and professionalism. The 2013 Star of Life Award recipient is Mary Richardson, who has worked for EMS since July 2011. Richardson has been extremely active in community health and safety education. She served on many peer-driven workgroups within the system, conducted public relations events and assisted with professional education.

The EMS Service Award is presented to a top performing full-time team member whose efforts have served to advance the level of care, system reputation and community awareness. The 2013 EMS Service Award was presented to James Maneval, who has been with Cabarrus EMS since August 2008. Maneval was responsible for driving the new system of cardiac arrest care resulting in increased survival for patients experiencing cardiac arrest. He currently serves as the coordinator for this peer driven work group and enters data reflective of the system's performance in a national database. Maneval has represented Cabarrus County EMS at several local and regional symposiums and was most recently selected to attend the National Emergency Cardiovascular Care Conference as a prehospital representative.

Cabarrus EMS also recently recognized the providers who participated in successful cardiac arrest resuscitations resulting in patient discharges. Kim Allred, Todd Anderson, Blake Basinger, Doug Bickerstaff, Will Cannon, Carlos Cespedes, Matt Clontz, Ann Coffey, Tim Crayton, Brandon Foutz, Jeff Fox, Bryan Hamilton, Tonya Honeycutt, Cory Hyland, Bill Jamieson, Serge Kalyuzhnyy, Mark Kirk, Bryant Kiser, Kyle Kiziah, Carey Kovacs, Andrea LeClair, James Maneval, James Marshall, Amanda Martocchio, Jonathan Maulden, James Monday, Chantalle Nicholson, Ashley Norris, Jeff Penninger, Marc Pressley, Donald Rea, Mary Richardson, Michelle Russell, Hannah Schenk, Steve Southworth, Cody Tidwell, Arizbeth Torres, Carlos Villanueva, Tammy Williams and Amanda Wortman.

Story ideas

When seconds count

Hearts & Heroes unites cardiac patients with the providers who saved them

Almost two years ago, Cabarrus County EMS system implemented a dramatic change in the way cardiac arrest patients were managed. A “pit-crew” type approach with defined roles was implemented which incorporated telecommunicators, first responders, and EMS responders. Additional focus was given to the provision of community CPR training.

As a result, the following successes were noted in 2013:

- 52% of cardiac arrest patients experienced a return of pulse
- 84% of best case scenario cardiac arrest patients regained a pulse
- 35% of best case scenario cardiac arrest patients were discharged from the hospital
- Best case scenarios include witnessed cardiac arrest, early bystander CPR, and early defibrillation.
- 587 people were trained in CPR in Cabarrus County by EMS staff.
- Total cardiac arrests in 2013: 138

Each year, cardiac patients and the providers who save them come together for the Hearts & Heroes special event. This year’s event will take place Thursday, February 27, from 6-9 p.m. at Hamrick Theater at Carolinas Medical Center—NorthEast. The ceremony is not open to the public, but media is invited. *At the event, media has the opportunity to speak with members of the care team and patients who survived cardiac incidents and their family members about their experience.*

Join our Journey

Cabarrus Active Living and Parks seeks public input for Masterplan development

The current Livable Community Blueprint, a comprehensive plan that included all Cabarrus cities and towns as partners, was developed in 2000 and planned for a 12 year period. Since then, several local municipalities completed new Masterplans specifically for their own community. By working together, we’re able to develop a comprehensive plan that provides access for all people of all ages to live an active lifestyle.

Masterplans are a fun way for the community to become involved in the work of local government. Through the Masterplan process, the development committee will use feedback from community groups, data from current trends and guidance from partnering agencies to develop a new plan to help meet the needs and wants of our residents. The plan will also provide direction and data that will apply toward the development of programs and can also assist the County in attaining funding from outside sources.

Over the next few months, Cabarrus County residents, interest groups, seniors, athletic groups and more are asked to provide input of your wants and needs for park, recreation and senior center facilities over the next 10 years. The input will provide critical information and direction for the 2014 Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Masterplan.

For more information on the Masterplan or community meetings, visit

<http://bit.ly/ALP2014Masterplan>. *Media can speak with ALP Director Londa Strong about the importance of community feedback on the plan design and/or speak with a representative of one of the local community organizations that is vying for their special interest to be included in the final plan*

Free Hazardous Materials training for local businesses and organizations

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Workshop, March 19

The Cabarrus County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is comprised of local government, businesses and organizations that are committed to learning, partnering and training for disasters. The LEPC will host a multi-session hazardous material workshop focused on emergency preparedness that includes training that meets the three-year requirement of the Department of Transportation (DOT) 49 CFR-172.704 for employers/employees who load, unload, label and/or handle hazardous materials. The workshop sessions are free and lunch is provided. Sessions will take place March 19, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information or to register, contact Bobby Smith, director of Cabarrus County Emergency Management, at 704-920-2143. The event is open to qualified professionals, but not the general public. *Media has the opportunity to speak with Smith and members of the LEPC on its impact on hazard preparation in Cabarrus County.*

Action points from the Feb. 17 Board of Commissioners meeting

Among its decisions at the Feb. 17 meeting, the Board of Commissioners:

- Recognized EMS Service Award Recipients
- Recognized EMS Personnel for Successful Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation
- Adopted a proclamation for the "411 - 4 Counties, 1 Book, 1 Community" Book Read
- Received an update on NCFast from DHS staff
- Approved consent items, including Cabarrus County Schools - Request for Royal Oaks Elementary School Roof Project; County Manager - Request for a One-Year Lease of Former Fairground Property; EMS - Approval of EMS Co-location with Harrisburg Fire Station 3; Planning and Development - Request to Submit Weatherization Application; Planning and Development - Soil & Water Conservation District - Application to the Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program; Sheriff - Proposal for Lead Shot Excavation, Screening and Soil Reinstallation at the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Training & Firing Range; Tax Collection - Advertisement of 2013 Tax Liens on Real Property; and Tax Administration - Refund and Release Report - January 2014.
- Held a public hearing on behalf of A.C.E. Academy Regarding the Issuance of Charter School Revenue Bonds. Approved the associated resolution.
- **Resources:**
[VIDEO: View the February 17 regular meeting](#)
View the [full agenda of the February 17 BOC meeting](#)

Events

Thursday, February 27, 6-9 p.m. – Hearts & Heroes (Hamrick Theater, Carolinas Medical Center—NorthEast): Cabarrus County EMS will celebrate the lives of those who have been resuscitated after an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and the dispatchers, first responders, EMTs, paramedics, nurses and doctors who helped change their lives. The ceremony is not open to the public, but media is invited. *At the event, media has the opportunity to speak with members of the care team and patients who survived cardiac incidents and their family members about their experience.*

Thursday, February 27, 6-8 p.m. – Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Masterplan Community Input Drop in Meeting (Charles E. Boger Elementary, 5150 Dovefield Ln, Kannapolis): The Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Department (ALP) is beginning the process of developing a new comprehensive Masterplan for future parks, recreation and senior centers in Cabarrus County. We want to know how YOU envision your future quality of life and the role active living and park facilities have in making your vision a reality. Help us design spaces that encourage residents to connect with neighbors, enjoy nature, and provide access for people of all ages to live an active lifestyle. For more information on the Masterplan or community meetings, visit <http://bit.ly/ALP2014Masterplan>.

Thursday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. – DHS Community Forum (Mt. Pleasant Senior Center, 8615 Park Drive, Mt. Pleasant): Cabarrus County DHS is inviting the public to attend an upcoming Community Forum session. During the next few months, leaders will visit each area of Cabarrus to discuss the structure of the newly formed Department of Human Services, their goals and the work they do to assist our community. Each forum will include a presentation, Q&A and meet-and-greet with representatives from each division of DHS. The community forums are free and open to anyone who would like to learn more about DHS programs and its role in the county. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/DHSForums2014> or call 704-920-1400, ext. 1552.

Monday, March 3, 4 p.m. – Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners Work Session (Multipurpose room, Government Center, 65 Church St. SW, Concord, Concord): The Board of Commissioners will hold its monthly work session. Catch live updates on Twitter @CabarrusCounty or #CCBOC. Watch meeting playback on TWC Channel 22 and on [Cabarrus County's YouTube channel](#).

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For more information or to schedule an interview on a topic listed above, contact:

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